

VALVED INTRODUCER SHEATH AND RELATED METHODSAbstract of the Disclosure

A valved introducer sheath is used to facilitate the insertion of a flexible medical device
5 into a body. The elongated valve of the valved introducer sheath is constructed of a foam
material that is injected into the sheath and sliced longitudinally to create one or more self-
sealing slits through which flexible medical devices can be passed. As a medical device is passed
through the self-sealing slit(s) at a proximal end, the self-sealing slits seal around the medical
device before opening at a distal end. The elongated valve is also affixed to at least some of the
10 inner surface of the sheath. The valve will tear into halves along at least one of the self-sealing
slits when the sheath is peeled.

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